



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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POSTAL EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING POSTAL FUNDS

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced that **ERIN WOOLSCHLAGER**, age 36, of Lowville, N.Y., was sentenced today, September 24, 2012, in U.S. District Court in Syracuse, New York before the Hon. Norman A. Mordue, U.S. District Court Judge. **WOOLSCHLAGER** was sentenced to a term of imprisonment to include ten weekends in jail, 5 years probation, 200 hours community service, and a \$100 special assessment. Moreover, **WOOLSCHLAGER** was ordered to pay \$21,705.05 in restitution in connection to her plea to the felony offense of Misappropriation of Postal Funds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1711.

WOOLSCHLAGER admitted that while working at the Natural Bridge Post Office, she cashed 105 money orders, totaling \$14,372.42, without purchasing or processing any of the money orders through the St. Louis Federal Reserve. **WOOLSCHLAGER** admitted to using the money orders to: deposit funds into her checking account; pay her car payment, mortgage payments, doctors bills, National Grid bill; repay a cousin for a loan; purchase a \$500 puppy; and make various other purchases. **WOOLSCHLAGER** also acknowledged that she took in excess of \$6500 of postal funds. In total, **WOOLSCHLAGER** acknowledged owing the United States Postal Service \$21,705.05.

The investigation of **WOOLSCHLAGER** began in March of 2010, when Special Agents with the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General ("USPSOIG") reviewed

records and conducted an audit of the Natural Bridge Post Office as a result of numerous money orders being processed after the date they were cashed.

This prosecution was handled in the United States Attorney's Office by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tamara B. Thomson. Further information can be directed to the United States Attorney's Office at (315) 448-0672.